



Dear Parents and Guardians:

Student safety in Pasco County Schools is our top priority. Consequently, we continuously practice safety drills and update our safety procedures to provide the best response possible to a variety of crisis situations.

This year, we are updating our training for responding to an active threat on campus, aligning with best practices for K-12 education as recommended by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Bureau of Investigations, and Federal Emergency Management Agency. All of these agencies recommend some version of a strategy that involves running (evacuating), hiding in a secure place, or defending yourself as a last resort (countering), whichever response is appropriate.

First, we want to be clear that *we do not teach self-defense techniques to children in elementary education or to children with special needs who may not possess the physical ability to defend themselves.* In addition, the decision to defend oneself or others is entirely a personal decision and will never be required of anyone.

We will be training school administrators, teachers, and staff using a video course. When students return to school, we will educate them about how to act during a crisis situation using videos and conducting practice drills. Please be aware that some of the videos contain depictions of person(s) at a school with a firearm. Law enforcement officers will be directly involved in planning and carrying out our training and drills, which will include active shooter scenarios. We will not host any drills without prior warning to staff and students, so as not to cause undue fear or panic.

In the unlikely event we have a real active shooter situation, we will not have prior warning, so we want all of our students, teachers, and staff to have the tools they need to react appropriately in order to save lives and reduce injuries.

If you have questions about the school district's Active Threat Plan, you can contact your child's school administration or the School Resource Officer (SRO), in secondary schools.

Sincerely,

Kurt S. Browning
Superintendent of Schools

Chris Nocco
Sheriff, Pasco County